

REMARKS

This is a divisional application of pending U.S. Patent Application Ser. No. 09/965,068 filed on September 26, 2001, which is a divisional of U.S. Patent Application Ser. No. 09/134,013 filed on August 14, 1998, now issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,323,223, and which in turn claims the priority benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/056,001 filed August 18 1997.

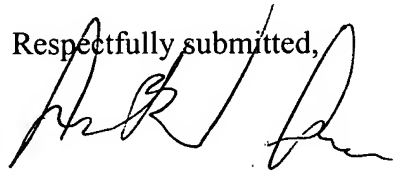
The previously pending claims have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 73-79 are pending in this application. Claims 73-79 represent the previously non-elected subject matter (Group I, claims 73-78 and 90) identified in the *Election/Restriction* of the Office Action mailed January 7, 2003 in the parent case 09/965,068. Claims 73-79 are fully supported by Applicants' disclosure and introduce no new matter.

It is respectfully requested that the above preliminary amendment be entered pursuant to the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.115; that this application be considered in view of the above amendment and following remarks; and that all of the claims remaining in this application be allowed.

CONCLUSION

If the Examiner finds that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,



Grant D. Green
Reg. No. 31,259
Attorney for Applicants

Roche Palo Alto
Patent Department, MS A2/250
Palo Alto, CA 94301
(650) 855-5311

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